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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/964,740

Examiner

Sanjiv D. Shah

Applicant(s)

VETTER ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/28/2001.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 28 September 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) ✓
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. A computer system for exchanging asset information among a plurality of application programs that are associated with one or more assets, where the assets are technical devices or systems, the computer system comprising storage means for storing information,

characterized in that a centralized asset information document containing information associated with the assets is stored in the storage means, the document is a text document and is structured as a plurality of sections, each containing a plurality of subsections, where each section corresponds to one of the assets and each subsection corresponds to one of the application programs, and where the system is configured to allow each application program to write information to the document and to read information from the document.
2. The computer system of claim 1, characterized in that the document is structured according to an extended markup language (XML) standard.

3. The computer system of claim 1, characterized in that the information consists of data representing a characteristic of an asset.
4. The computer system of claim 1, characterized in that the information specifies a link to another document that is stored on a computer data storage means and that contains information associated with at least one asset.
5. The computer system of claim 1, characterized in that the information specifies a method to access a data server application program that is able to provide information associated with at least one asset.
6. The computer system of claim 1, characterized in that the system is configured to allow at least one of the plurality of application programs to write information only into those subsections of the document that are associated with the at least one application program.
7. A method for exchanging asset information among a plurality of application programs that are associated with one or more assets, where the assets are technical devices or systems, the method being executed on a computer system comprising storage means for storing information, characterized in that the method comprises the following steps:
 - a) a first step in which a first application program writes information to a centralized asset information document which contains information associated with the assets, is stored in the storage means, is a text document and is structured as a plurality of sections, each section containing a plurality of subsections, where

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each section corresponds to one of the assets and each subsection corresponds to one of the application programs and

- b) a second step in which a second application program reads said information from the document.

Please amend abstract as follows:

A computer system and method for exchanging asset information, wherein a common, centralized asset information document containing information associated with assets of a technical facility or plant is maintained. The information is represented by plain text, structured as a plurality of sections, each containing a plurality of subsections, where each section corresponds to one of the assets and each subsection corresponds to one of a plurality of application programs. Each application program may write information to and read information from the document. The asset information document thus provides a unified access to relevant asset information. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the information is expressed using the well-known extended markup language (XML) standard. This allows to use established standards for defining the document structure.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The cited prior art fails to teach alone or in combination the claimed invention.

The invention as claimed is a method of exchanging asset information among plurality of application programs associated with one or more asset. Centralized asset information document containing information associated with assets are stored, wherein the document is a text document with sections corresponding to asset and subsections corresponding to application program.

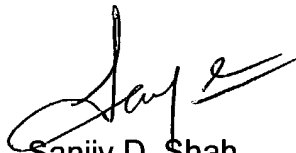
The cited prior art, Specifically, Mohan et al. teaches a centralized asset information as claimed. However it fails to teach a document with sections corresponding to assets and subsections corresponding to application program as claimed. Therefore the invention as claimed is allowable over the cited prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sanjiv D. Shah whose telephone number is (703) 305-8355. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph H Feild can be reached on (703) 305-9792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Sanjiv D. Shah
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2176

S. Shah
August 20, 2004